

# Virginia is for Lovers

## OF SUMMER LEARNING!

Visit the Virginia Department of Education's 2013 Summer Learning website for ideas:

[www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/summer/](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/summer/)

Research shows that children who read for pleasure in the summer do better and forget less when they go back to school. And it's not just in reading. Kids who don't read over the summer can slide backward in all subject areas. This means the summer months and other breaks from school offer great opportunities for families and caregivers to help improve reading and writing. Here are some simple things you can do to develop a lifelong love of reading, writing and learning:

- ♥ Read and write for pleasure.
- ♥ Read the newspaper.
- ♥ Read a book.
- ♥ Write a group letter or e-mail to family or friends.
- ♥ Talk about steps in projects or chores and explain why you're doing them.
- ♥ Review maps for a family trip.
- ♥ Listen to audiobooks in the car.
- ♥ Write notes, make lists.
- ♥ Demonstrate the power of words.

Here are some more ideas to support learning all summer.

## Reading

### Find A Book

Create a custom list of books at your child's reading level and take the list to your local library or a nearby bookstore.

- ♥ Go to [www.lexile.com/findabook/VA](http://www.lexile.com/findabook/VA) and enter the child's grade level.
- ♥ Pick the child's interest categories and view/refine the search results.
- ♥ Print the child's custom reading list and take it with you to your local public library or bookstore.

### Dig Into Reading

Contact your local public library to find out more about the Library of Virginia's summer reading program. A list of public libraries in Virginia is available at [www.lva.virginia.gov/public/libraries.asp](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/libraries.asp)



## Day By Day Va

For daily activities related to reading, check out the Library of Virginia's Family Literacy Calendar at [www.daybydayva.org](http://www.daybydayva.org).

## Find It Virginia

Free, round-the-clock access to resources — such as newspapers, magazine articles, journal articles and books including encyclopedias — may be found through the Library of Virginia's [www.finditva.com](http://www.finditva.com).

Materials are available for all age ranges and interests. For summer learning, these links might be of interest:

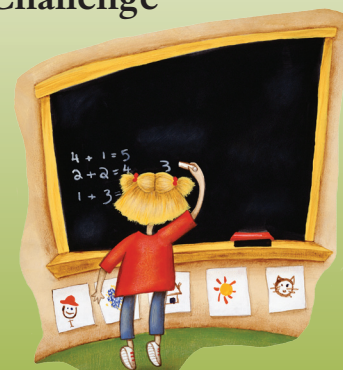
- ♥ Fact Monster – [www.factmonster.com](http://www.factmonster.com)
- ♥ For Kids - [www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/](http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/)
- ♥ Kids Click – [www.kidsclick.org](http://www.kidsclick.org)



## Mathematics

### Summer Math Challenge

For students who have just completed grades 2-5, a free, six-week, e-mail-based math skills program is available by registering at [www.Quantiles.com/summer-math](http://www.Quantiles.com/summer-math). From June 24 to August 2,



parents receive daily e-mails with fun activities and resources designed to help kids retain the math skills learned during the previous school year. In addition, visit [www.Quantiles.com/summer-math](http://www.Quantiles.com/summer-math) daily to learn about weekly math concepts, how to earn badges, and to print out a certificate at the end of the challenge.

## For Kids Math & Science

To find fun activities and interesting information related to math and science, check out [www.ipl.org/IPLBrowse/GetSubject?vid=12&cid=3&tid=4278&parent=0](http://www.ipl.org/IPLBrowse/GetSubject?vid=12&cid=3&tid=4278&parent=0)

## MATHCOUNTS

Find a new math challenge every week and explore the Math Arcade, a collection of math-related games at [www.mathcounts.org/students](http://www.mathcounts.org/students).



## Science

### NOAA For Kids

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the federal agency that focuses on the earth's changing environment, predicting weather, exploring the oceans, marine commerce and a lot more. Visit [www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/kids/](http://www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/kids/) for links to many explorations from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor and everything in between.

## The Smithsonian Institution

The world's largest museum and research complex offers students many opportunities to explore, discover and learn about science, nature and other things, too, at [www.smithsonianeducation.org/students/index.html](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/students/index.html)

## The 4-H Virtual Forest

To find out more about photosynthesis, tree identification, renewable resources and outdoor activities, check out the Virginia Cooperative Extension's Virtual Forest website at [www.sites.ext.vt.edu/virtualforest/](http://www.sites.ext.vt.edu/virtualforest/).

## Science Matters

Students can visit Central Virginia's PBS website Science Matters at [www.ideastations.org/sciencematters](http://www.ideastations.org/sciencematters) for opportunities to explore the natural world around them.

## History & Social Science

### Capitol Classroom

For information about Virginia's symbols, emblems, history, General Assembly members, the state capitol and how a bill becomes a law, check out [capclass.virginiageneralassembly.gov/](http://capclass.virginiageneralassembly.gov/)



## Museums in Virginia

Why not visit one of Virginia's many museums this summer? Do some virtual exploration about Virginia's early days at Jamestown and Yorktown (<http://www.historyisfun.org/videos-and-podcasts.htm>), or take an interactive tour of Williamsburg (<http://www.history.org/media/>). You can find a list of all of Virginia's museums at <http://www.virginia.org/directory/museums/>.

## Historic Sites In Virginia

To learn more about the Old Dominion's historic and historical sites, exhibits, monuments and legendary persons, go to [www.virginia.org/historicsites/](http://www.virginia.org/historicsites/). Each site has its own unique story, and nearly all have a friendly Virginia face available to share a tale.

## Virginia Time Travelers: Historic Homes Edition

Find information and then travel to Virginia's many historic homes. To become a Master Traveler, download a passport from the website at [www.historicalhomes.virginia.gov/timetraveler.cfm](http://www.historicalhomes.virginia.gov/timetraveler.cfm), visit eight participating Virginia homes, mail the completed passport to the Executive Mansion and be recognized on the website and receive a certificate signed by the governor.

*Keep Learning Alive in the Old Dominion This Summer!*



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